9/3/66

Dear Dave,

In haste, thanks for the clip from PW. It is important to me. Please send me all yousee, inc. the Philo. papers, where there was news this past week of the Popkin book. There is brewing a major literary scandal. Both Viking and through them Bantam and Holt have plagiarized from me and what the NYReview did is perhaps even worse!

The vp and exec ed of NAL phoned me in June. They have read the book and almost made me a hardback offer then. They haved neither ayed nor nayed. I am approaching no more of the bastards, as long as I have constructive work to do in the same time. When they want it enough to make adecent offer, I'll grab it. Until then it is a waste of time and a tactical disadvantage. I have an offer for the current and the coming book that looks interesting that I have not taken the time to study but will before a conference on it in two weeks. I am having to make other appearances to stimulate interest and meet the competition of the vast pr facilities of Holt, which slows down the writing output, but I'll have the sequel ready for editing in two weeks, and it will, I think be quite something. I'm saying nothing about it publicly because that is a lot safer! It is that hot. It names names, gives dates, and will have such documentation, all official, as no book in history has ever had, I believe.

When I see you I'll tell you the whole Viking-Bantam story. I gave them some of my unpublished work only to defend their very weak book. I have the correspondence. They ever asked me to get additional material from that archive, despite their author's having been in it! I even have copies of what they've been giving away in the trade, by Xerox. I've written both Ginzberg and Barnard, Ex Ex. ed at Bantam and the NY Review and the London papers that have carried stories. My wife will, alas, spend the holiday making copies!

Dell is reading WHITEWASH. I'm not supposed to know it. Pyramid is considering doing it in exactly this form because it has a certain "inside quality". Even permanent library sales in this form are picking up. Made the front page of the Wall Street Journal Tuesday!

But please save all the clippings from whatever source and please send them to me as soon as possible. Remember, I live in the country and cannot see the city papers. There was a feature story on me in the Balt. Sun Thursday, with pictures. I haven't seen it.

Best regards,